7: Hu K-5 (1934-) 1946 AF16 Southwest China AF16

Tung oil is widely used in the modern industrial world. It has been proved particularly invaluable in making high grade paints, in boat-building, and in the manufacturing of many other water-proof products. The refuse cake, chemically a complete fertilizer, is valued highly by the farmers of the Basin for fertilization purposes. It is used especially for the dry crop fields, such as corn, kaoliang, and other crops, but is very seldom applied to the rice-fields. It is reported that these tung-cake fertilizers are particularly suitable to the corn crop.[1] The shells of the tung seed, together with rice and soy bean stalks, burned and treated, are commonly used to prepare a cheap soap for the local farming families.

China now produces about 85 per cent of the total world supply of Tung oil, and the production of Szechuan Basin alone accounts for about 40 per cent of the total tung oil export of all China. The best customer was the United States, which, before the war, took on an average about half of the total production. Other customers were Germany, with about 25 per cent of the total; England, with about 15 per cent; and France, Italy, and Japan, each with about 5 per cent of the total annual export.

From the standpoint of the agricultural economy of the Basin, the production of tung oil is vitally significant. Even apart from the huge amount of cash income it brings in the export market, the value of the refuse cake for fertilization, and other industrial purposes, such as the manufacturing of soap, the total value of the Tung tree to the farmers of the Basin is incalculable. Hence, the Bureau of Agricultural Research of Szechuan has recently launched an ambitious ten-year expansion program to boost the Basin's Tung-tree production. It aims to increase the present yearly production of oil from 400,000 quintals to 1,000,000 quintals. At the same time, the Foreign Trade Commission together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have a five-year plan for increasing tung-oil production in Szechuan, Hupeh, Hunan, Kweichow, and Kwangsi to 650,000 quintals per year. In addition to existing Tung trees, according to the five-year plan, Szechuan is to plant Tung trees on an additional 500,000 mow of land as a necessary step in the expansion program.[2]

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[1] Y. J. Hsiao, "A Study of the Agricultural Practices of Szechuan," Reconstruction Weekly, IV, No. 7 (1933), 6.

[2] Bureau of Agricultural Research of Szechuan, Annual Report (1940), p. 76.